

[Today's date]

Medicaid recipient's name

[Street address]

[City, state, zip code]

Re: Blood Testing for Lead Poisoning

Dear Medicaid recipient:

Nevada Medicaid wants you to know that lead poisoning can seriously affect your child's health and young children are most affected. A simple test can help protect your child from lead poisoning. This test is FREE for children who have Medicaid insurance and who are under the age of 6 years. (Transportation can also be provided.)

Lead poisoning happens when a person has been exposed to lead and has absorbed too much lead into the bloodstream. Lead usually enters the body in two ways. The first way is by putting something that contains lead into your mouth. The second is by breathing in dust or gasses that carry lead. Symptoms may only appear after unsafe levels of lead have built up. Early detection by testing before symptoms appear is best for your child.

Many things can expose your child to lead. For example, lead can be found in:

- Paint in homes built before 1978
- Pottery/ceramics
- Floor tile
- Pots, pans, and dishes
- Dirt or dust
- Toys
- Plumbing, drinking water fixtures
- Work clothes from members of the family who work near car batteries, radiators, or construction sites
- Candy that comes from other countries

Lead poisoning is most dangerous for **young children** since they are still growing and developing. Lead enters their bodies more easily and faster than for adults. Lead poisoning makes it hard for children to grow and learn. Too much lead in a child's body can also cause death.

Around 310,000 children in the U.S. between 1 and 5 years of age are lead poisoned. Some children do not have any symptoms, so the only way to know if your child is safe is to have his or her blood tested.

**Medicaid covers two blood-lead tests for children.** The first one should be done at the age of **12 months**, and the second at **24 months**. If your child is between 24 months and 6 years of age and has never been tested, Medicaid will still pay for him or her to have one blood test. To make sure that your child is safe, please ask your child's doctor for this test.

For questions about your Medicaid coverage of this and other tests, please call ( ) - .

Sincerely,